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ACTION EA-20

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-08 L-04 NSAE-00
NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 UPW-01 AID-28
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R 291555Z JUL 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7974
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMCONSUL DANANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12012

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Dean Izenberg DATE 1/26/82
RDS or XDS EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
E.O. 11652 EXEMPTION MARKINGS
DECLASSIFIED / RELEASABLE
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FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: LOWER HOUSE ELECTION: CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL ANNOUNCES DECISIONS ON DISQUALIFICATIONS

REF: A) SAIGON 11402
B) SAIGON A-88 POL 14 Viet S

1. SUMMARY: OVER HALF THE LOWER HOUSE CANDIDATES EARLIER DISQUALIFIED, INCLUDING STRONG OPPOSITIONIST NGO CONG DUC, HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO RUN BY THE CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL. END SUMMARY

2. COMPLETING ITS WORK THREE DAYS AHEAD OF THE AUGUST 1 DEADLINE, THE CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL (CEC) ANNOUNCED ON JULY 29 THE RESULTS OF ITS REVIEW OF DISQUALIFICATIONS OF LOWER HOUSE CANDIDATES BY THE LOCAL ELECTION COUNCILS. OF 1,404 CANDIDATES AT THE FIRST POSTING, 18 HAVE WITHDRAWN AND 118 CANDIDACIES WERE DISALLOWED BY THE LOCAL ELECTION COUNCILS. 107 OF THESE 118 APPEALED TO THE CEC. ALSO, IN TEN CASES CANDIDATES APPROVED BY LOCAL ELECTION COUNCILS

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WERE THE SUBJECT OF COMPLAINTS TO THE CEC, AND THUS THE CEC CONSIDERED 117 CASES IN ALL. OF THESE, 65 CANDIDATES WERE REINSTATED.

3. IN PARTICULAR, THE CEC APPROVED THE CANDIDACIES OF OPPOSITION DEPUTIES NGO CONG DUC (VINH BING PROVINCE) AND NGUYEN VAN DAU (MY THO CITY), THUS OVERRIDING THEIR EARLIER DISQUALIFICATION. HOWEVER, THE CEC SUSTAINED THE DISQUALIFICATION OF STRONGLY OPPOSITIONIST DEPUTY TRUONG GIA KY SANH (BINH THUAN). NO REASONS WERE GIVEN FOR THE CEC'S DECISIONS.

4. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CEC IS THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, TRAN VAN LINH. MEMBERS ARE: DINH VAN HUAN, PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE SAIGON COURT OF APPEAL; SENATOR TRAN QUANG THUAN OF THE OPPOSITION BUDDHISTS; MODERATE DEPUTY NGUYEN HOANG; TRAN VAN THUAN, DEPUTY PROSECUTOR OF THE SAIGON COURT OF APPEAL; AND LE CONG CHAT, VICE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

5. COMMENT: OUR FIRST READING IS THAT THE CEC ACCOMPLISHED ITS TASK IN AN OBJECTIVE AND CREDITABLE WAY, WHICH COULD BE EXPECTED IN VIEW OF THE BALANCE AND CALIBER OF THE MEMBERS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE YET TO HEAR VIETNAMESE REACTIONS OR EXAMINE THE LIST IN DETAIL.
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